

April 10, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Bay City Times: Michigan Supreme Court to decide if Bay City man's 2011 conviction of raping child stands

"The Michigan Supreme Court is to hear attorneys' arguments before deciding whether a Bay City man's 2011 conviction of raping a 4-year-old girl will stand. Bay County Assistant Prosecutor Sylvia L. Linton and appellate attorney Valerie R. Newman are to present their oral arguments in the case of 25-year-old David B. Burns before the Supreme Court on Wednesday, April 10."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Michigan Supreme Court to hold oral arguments

"Wayne County judge accused of signing her divorce lawyer's name to legal documents without the lawyer's permission will have her case heard by the Michigan Supreme Court in oral arguments this week."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Also see:

Ethics charges against Wayne County judge to be heard by Michigan Supreme Court in oral arguments this week

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Appeals Court: Bank can't collect on \$2.1M Schostak loan

"A retroactive state law prevents a bank from collecting on a \$2.1 million loan guarantee signed by the brother of Michigan Republican Party Chairman Bobby Schostak, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled in an opinion released today."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: GOP chairman's brother wins key court ruling in real estate dispute

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: GOP chairman's brother wins key court ruling

[Full story](#)

Crain's Detroit Business: GOP chairman's brother wins key court ruling

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Appeals court rules against Davis in suit over Highland Park Schools' EM

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled against activist Robert Davis in a lawsuit that sought the ouster of the former emergency manager for Highland Park Schools. Davis, a member of the Highland Park school board, sued last year after Gov. Rick Snyder named Jack Martin to head the troubled district under Public Act 4, which has since been repealed."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge critical of both sides in series of lawsuits around emergency manager law

"An Ingham County judge today blasted both sides in a series of lawsuits involving the state's emergency manager law. Ingham Circuit Judge William Collette directed most of his scorn at Highland Park Labor

activist and indicted school board member Robert Davis and his Novi attorney Andrew Paterson, who have brought a series of lawsuits against various state agencies and officials. He dismissed one of the two Davis lawsuits that were in front of him today."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Editorial: Free speech wins in sign battle

"It was a victory for free expression last week when a local judge in Grand Rapids threw out a citation against a west Michigan farmer who had used his property to voice dissatisfaction with the federal government. Judge Steven Servaas of 63rd District Court ruled Gaines Township's sign ordinance unconstitutional, calling its varying restrictions unfair. It limited political signs to no more than 20 square feet but allowed commercial signs up to 32 square feet."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Lawyer forced out by Wayne County budget cuts gets award

"An attorney furloughed from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has been honored with a prestigious award from his fellow Metro Detroit lawyers. Tim Baughman is the latest winner of the Leonard Gilman Award from the Federal Bar Association. Baughman has been head of research and appeals at the prosecutor's office since 1986 but was recently laid off during a round of budget cuts."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Lawyer forced out by budget cuts gets award

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Judge Garbrecht to retire in June

"Family and the beach will replace orange jail suits and lawyers for a Calhoun County judge. Circuit Judge Allen Garbrecht announced Monday he will retire on June 1 with after three decades on the bench and with more than half of his six-year term remaining."

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

Also see:

SBM Blog: Governor Seeks Applicants For Calhoun Circuit Court Vacancy

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Court targets family reunification; Program uses team approach to help parents as they work to stay sober

"... Carole Church, Livingston County's court program administrator, said the reality is drug and alcohol addiction rips families apart, and without properly addressing the parent's addiction, it keeps the family from mending.... That is what the local court's Family Treatment Court seeks to address. The voluntary program began in 2010 with a \$15,000 planning grant from the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Office."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Wayne County Friend of the Court offers bench warrant amnesty

"Wayne County Friend of the Court is offering amnesty on bench warrants for those in arrears on child support. From May 1 – 24, payers who appear and pay 1 percent or \$250, whichever is greater, toward their child support arrearage will receive amnesty."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Appellate Bench Bar conference approaches

"Every three years appellate justices, judges, practitioners and court staff get together at the Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference to share information on appellate advocacy. The conference this year will be held April 24-26 at the Inn of St. John's in Plymouth."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

The Macomb Daily: Two counties, two judges, one marriage

"A Macomb County judge and Oakland County judge are doing more than their share to improve inter-county relations. Circuit Judge Mark Switalski and Judge Jodi Debbrecht Switalski of 51st District Court in Waterford Township have been married since last October. Both filed for divorce from their spouse in 2010 and were divorced in 2011."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Oakland Press.

The MiLW Blog: A tale of two kidneys: MSC orders arguments in med-mal case

"The Michigan Supreme Court is considering whether to review a case that raises the issue of whether a medical-malpractice plaintiff can be compensated for the loss of a kidney when her other kidney is still functioning."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Rep. Assembly to address MSC justice selection, court rules

"Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly will be talking about the selection of high court justices at the April 27 State Bar Representative Assembly meeting."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: No jail for Muskegon Heights 'original man of the land' convicted of misdemeanor

"A positive pre-sentence report and a respectful manner earned a no-jail sentence Tuesday for Jason Shawntell Hannett Jr. of Muskegon Heights, whose unusual defense of himself to a jury on Feb. 28 ended in a misdemeanor conviction of attempted resisting and obstructing police."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Foster Parents of the Year honored

"In recognition of March as Parent Awareness Month, Oakland County Chairman Michael J. Gingell honored Michigan's Foster Parents of the Year, Lake Orion's Judy Wright and John Wright (posthumously), at the Thursday, March 21, Oakland County Board of Commissioners meeting in Pontiac. On November 9, 2012, John Wright passed away after the couple received the Foster Parents of the Year Award from the Michigan Supreme Court State, Court Administrative Office, and Michigan Foster Care Review Board in November of 2012."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Center provides mediator training opportunities

"People face conflict every single day of their life. Oakland Mediation Center (OMC) offers 40-Hour Domestic and Civil Mediator Trainings to any individual who wishes to learn skills to help others workout their disputes.... OMC's 40-Hour Domestic and Civil Mediator Trainings are approved by the Michigan State Court Administrative Office and are designed to be highly interactive and skill based."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: In Memoriam: Hon. Albert J. Engel

"Albert J. Engel died April 5 at the age of 89. He was a 1950 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and was appointed by Pres. Richard Nixon to the federal district court judge for the Western District of Michigan in 1970. Three years later, Pres. Nixon appointed him to the 6th circuit Court of Appeals.... He retired from the bench in 2002."

[Full story](#)